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VIRGINIA THREADS FOR THE FUTURE HISTORIAN.

Not many years will elapse before a history of Virginia will be demanded, based upon documents that were inaccessible to Stith, and later historians.

Perhaps a few threads from time to time in the *William and Mary College Quarterly* may be of use to some weaver of a new historical robe for "old Virginia."

As yet it cannot be shown from documents the *exact* year when the Washington immigrant began to plant in Virginia.

There are, however, reliable data now accessible as to the coming of some early families. In the volumes published by the British "Public Records Office" are some declarations of value.

Before the "Committee for advance of money cases," Robert Batt, grocer of London, on the 14th of January, 1553, O. S. petitions in behalf of his brother John, who in June, 1646, with his family went to Virginia. Capt. John Ravenscroft on the 10th of September, 1651, received a pass to go to Virginia.

On the 26th of November, 1653, the Irish and Scotch Committee of Parliament, after conferring with Col. Mathews, reported him to the Council of State as a fit person to be governor of Virginia, which shows that the nomination of Mathews to succeed Diggs was first made by the English authorities, and several years before his election by the House of Burgesses.

In November, 1652, a gratuity of £63 was given to Maria, widow of Capt. Robert Davis, one of the commissioners to reduce Virginia, who was lost at sea; and £60 was also given to the widow and child of the young Capt. Dennis, lost at the same time.

John Tailoe, in 1673, owing to financial embarrassment, left England and purchased a plantation in Virginia.

On October 20, 1714, the Privy Council requested the Lords of the Treasury to consider the expediency of establishing a bishopric at Williamsburg, Va., the diocese to extend from the west shore of the Delaware river to the utmost bounds of the British possessions.

In 1715, John Brunskill was appointed a minister to Virginia, and a bounty of £20 granted.

In August, 1716, a ship was in the "Cove of York" bound for Virginia, with 118 rebels taken at the Preston battle.

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PEDIGREE OF A REPRESENTATIVE VIRGINIA PLANTER.

BY THE EDITOR.

At "Bellfield," York county, Va., stands a monument to the memory of "Edward Diggs, Esq., sonne of Dudley Diggs, of Chilham, in Kent, Knt. and Bart., Master of the Rolls in the reign of King Charles the First."⁽¹⁾ Edward Diggs or Digges, as the name is also spelled, was one of a large number of English gentlemen of culture and refinement who composed the society of York county during the 17th century. Beginning at the Back River, which divides the county on the east from the county of Elizabeth City, and following the course of the river York for about twenty-five miles to Skimeno creek, the western

(1) Diggs' Epitaph, "Virginia Historical Papers," XI. p. 107. The spelling of the monument is "Diggs."